

Birkbeck College Crystallography Laboratory,
21 Torrington Square,
London, W.C.1.

Dr. C.A. Knight,
The Virus Laboratory,
University of California,
Berkeley 4,
California,
U.S.A.

17th December, 1954.

Dear Dr. Knight,

Thank you so much for your letter answering my long series of questions, and for the two virus specimens.

I have started to work with both materials, but have not yet succeeded in obtaining good enough orientation. They were almost dry on arrival, and I had some difficulty in re-wetting them. When I added a few drops of freshly boiled distilled water to the CV4 a white precipitate formed. However, there remains plenty of material free from this precipitate. Its mechanical properties seem rather different from those of TMV. It tends to stay as a gel at a greater dilution, which makes it more difficult to orientate. I think the I-TMV is going to be somewhat easier. Do you know how much iodine it contains?

I enclose a copy of a short paper which I am sending to "Nature". (If it is rejected as being too long for "Nature" I shall send it elsewhere). I should be grateful if you would be kind enough to show it to Professor Stanley and to Dr. Fraenkel-Conrat.

I will write again in a few weeks time to tell you whether I am having any success with your materials.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Yours sincerely,

Rosalind Franklin.